

EMANUEL HOLMAN RICHARDS, SR.

Emanuel Holman Richards was born December 16, 1851 at Camborne, Cornwall, England, the son of Charles and Jane Pendray Richards.

He emigrated to Utah in 1872. After living in America three years, he sent money to England to bring the sweetheart of his younger days to Utah. After residing five years among the Mormons, he was converted to the faith of the Latter Day Saints, was baptized January 3, 1879 and ever after was a firm believer in the divine mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Prior to his joining the Church, he was a member of the United Methodists denomination.

On the arrival of his sweetheart, Mary Catherine Pope, he met her at the railroad station (Ogden, Utah) and they were married that day by a Methodist minister on July 18, 1875. They moved to Ophir, Tooele County, Utah, where Emanuel was engaged in mining pursuits. Mary Catherine spent some of her time helping with the cooking in the boarding house to help while away the time and to keep her from getting homesick for England. Both of them had left their native land, all kindred, friends and neighbors to cast their lot in a new country, with a new people whose customs and mode of living was such a contrast to their former way of life.

Before coming to Utah, Mary Catherine belonged to the Church of England. Five years elapsed before she joined the Latter Day Saints, she being of a rather skeptical mind. She finally became a firm believer and an ardent worker in the Church. Upon Emanuel and Mary's joining the Mormon Church, their parents turned against them and refused to have correspondence or any contact with them.

Emanuel Richards was a dignified, aristocratic looking man. He was six feet tall and ramrod straight with a rather slender build. His hair was dark brown. For many years he wore a mustache and goatee but when that style became unfashionable, he was clean shaven and looked much younger. He had a firm chin with a cleft in it, clear skin and blue-gray eyes.

Mary Catherine was short, about five feet tall, and because of that shortness, gave the impression of being pleasingly plump although she did not carry a great deal of excess weight on her body. She had the envied English complexion, fair, soft and clear, with medium brown hair and hazel eyes. As a girl her nose had been broken and, not having proper treatment at the time, it had a small hump on it which made it seem rather large. She had pretty, plump hands.

Both Emanuel and Mary Catherine sang. She had an exceptionally good alto voice and he sang the lead in a clear tenor. They often sang together, their favorite song being "Ora Lee."

Both of them were well and smartly dressed and well received by everyone. They were congenial but there was an air of reserve about both of them -- an English characteristic.

Emanuel Holman Richards was ordained to the office of an Elder on May 4, 1879; ordained a Seventy on January 13, 1884 by William W. Taylor; ordained a High Priest on January 21, 1900 by Francis M. Lyman and set apart as High Councilor in the Jordan Stake.

From 1893 to 1899 he acted as Sunday School superintendent, served one year as president of the Y. M. M. I. A. in the West Jordan ward, was ward clerk from 1903 to 1912, officiated as ward teacher for many years, worked extensively for his kindred dead in the Salt Lake Temple, did a lot of research work and filled many appointments as home missionary. He had the power of healing and through his strong faith many people were healed.

Emanuel Richards took an active part in civic affairs, such as school trustee for several years and held other positions of trust, honor and responsibility.

Emanuel loved beautiful flowers and books. While still in England, he built a greenhouse where he raised numerous varieties of flowers and then built a bookcase in the corner of it where he accumulated many fine books which he studied diligently. He spent a great deal of time in this library especially after working hours. He became a self-educated and very well read man. There were very few subjects on which he had not made some study and could converse intelligently with whomever he met.

His principal occupations were mining, milling and farming. He was boss over the mines in Ophir, also the Old Telegraph mines in Bingham Canyon for about six years. In later years he built and operated a stamp mill where ore was crushed so the valuable minerals could be separated from the rest of the mined material by the leaching method. He became chief assayer and superintendent at the Old Stamp Mill at Midvale and did work for the Alta and Tintic mines. He was a mechanic on several jobs and had many men working under his supervision. The milling company he was working for wanted to transfer him to Butte, Montana to take charge of a smelter but due to his wife's reluctance and the fact that he had joined the Church, he thought it wise to remain in Utah.

Emanuel was ever a kind father, a loving husband and a good provider for his large family of twelve children. He died at his home in West Jordan on July 10, 1922 and was buried in the West Jordan cemetery. His passing was a deep loss to his family, to the ward and to the people he had so faithfully served.